

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 1-3 and 5-9, claim 4 being previously canceled. Claims 1-3 have been allowed over cited prior art, while claims 5-9 have been rejected on formalistic grounds. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 and 5-9 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as being of an informal nature. In response, Applicants have submitted herewith formal Replacement Drawings, figures 1-7, to replace the informal drawing figures currently on file.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present objection to the drawings now be withdrawn.

The Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as improperly incorporating essential material by reference to a foreign patent application. In response, Applicants have amended the Cross Reference to Related Applications to address the Examiner's concern in this regard.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding objections to the specification now be withdrawn.

The Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 5-25 as being in improper multiple dependent form. In response, Applicants have amended claims 5-25 so as to be in proper multiple dependent form.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding objection to claims 5-25 now be withdrawn.

The Objection to Claims 5-9

The Examiner has objected to claims 5-9 as being in improper form stemming from one multiple dependent claim being dependent upon another multiple dependent claim.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 5-9 to address the Examiner's concerns in this regard.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 5-9. Moreover, as claims 5-9 now depend from allowed-claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-9 are allowable on this basis alone, and an early indication to this effect is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

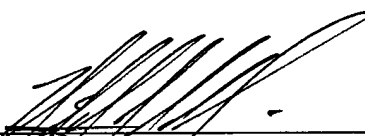
In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 5-9 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

No fee is considered due for filing this Amendment. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any additional fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Nicholas J. Tuccillo
Registration No. 44,322
Attorney for Applicant

McCORMICK, PAULDING & HUBER LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-4102
Tel. (860) 549-5290
Fax. (413) 733-4543

Amendment to the drawings:

Please substitute the attached formal Replacement Sheet drawings, Figures 1-7, for those currently on file.